

for the rest of your life will think about preserving our past, honoring it, but also will think about imagining the future. What an imagination it took in 1814 to believe that America had a boundless future.

The Continental Congress said when it authorized the first flag of 13 stars that they were "a new constellation." They were right. When I looked at all those children today saying the Pledge of Allegiance, I thought, now we are a newer constellation—different than they could have imagined—racially, religiously. We have no longer a small country on the eastern seaboard, but a continental nation, with the greatest influence for good the world has ever seen and an enormous responsibility for the future.

And that is the last point I would like to make today. You can neither honor the past, nor imagine the future, nor achieve it without the kind of citizenship embodied by all of our memories of the flag. So as you see this flag and leave this place, promise yourself that when your great-grandchildren are here, they'll not only be able to see the Star-Spangled Banner, it will mean just as much to them then as it does to you today.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:48 a.m. at the National Museum of American History. In his remarks, he referred to I. Michael Heyman, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Rebecca W. Rimel, president, Pew Charitable Trusts; Mayor Marion S. Barry, Jr., of Washington, DC; Richard Moe, president, National Trust for Historic Preservation; singer Denyce Graves; and Ralph Lauren, chairman and chief executive officer, Polo Ralph Lauren Corp.

### **Statement on the Proposed International Monetary Fund Financing Program for Russia**

*July 13, 1998*

I welcome the announcement this morning by Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, that he will recommend a new financing program for Russia to the Fund's Executive Board. This new program of Russian policy commitments and international financial support can provide a sound basis for increased stability and

confidence. Strong implementation by the Russian Government of these important reform measures is essential. I continue to believe that a partnership with a stable, democratic, and prosperous Russia is a vital U.S. national interest.

### **Statement on Brazil's Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaties**

*July 13, 1998*

Today Brazil ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). I want to congratulate President Cardoso and the Government of Brazil for taking this historic step.

Brazil's decision renews momentum for the international effort to halt the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament around the world. At a time when actions by India and Pakistan threaten a nuclear competition in South Asia, Brazil has chosen a different course—to invest in its people, not in a costly arms race.

Brazil's action today to ratify the CTBT makes it all the more important for the U.S. to do the same. I call on our Senate to act expeditiously to approve the CTBT—already signed by 149 nations and supported by the Joint Chiefs of Staff—so that the United States can lead in this vital endeavor.

### **Proclamation 7108—50th Anniversary of the Integration of the Armed Services, 1998**

*July 13, 1998*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

On July 26, 1948, with the stroke of a pen, President Harry Truman changed the course of American history. By signing Executive Order 9981, "Establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services," he officially declared that "there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons